CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

| Investigator: | | Team: | CCRB Case #: | ▼ For | ce | | Discourt. | П | U.S. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|---|----------------|----------|--------|------------|--------|----------|
| Rachel Buhner | | Squad #16 | 201406773 | M Abı | | _ | O.L. | ☐ ☐ | Injury |
| | | aquita ii 10 | 201100770 | E 1100 | | | 0.2. | | |
| Incident Date(s) | | Location of Incident: | | Preci | nct: | 18 N | Mo. SOL | | EO SOL |
| Friday, 07/04/2014 10:15 PM | | In front of § 87(2)(b) 46th Precinct stationho | inside the | 46 | 5 | 1/ | 4/2016 | | 1/4/2016 |
| Date/Time CV Reported | | CV Reported At: | How CV Reported: | : Date | e/Time | Recei | ived at CC | RB | |
| Tue, 07/08/2014 10:57 AM | | CCRB | Phone | Tue | , 07/08/ | /2014 | 10:57 AM | 1 | |
| Complainant/Victim | Type | Home Addre | ess | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Witness(es) | | Home Addre | ess | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Subject Officer(s) | Shield | TaxID | Command | | | | | | |
| 1. POM Nicholas Kourounis | 28949 | 954029 | PBBX | | | | | | |
| 2. LT Seth Lynch | 00000 | 932932 | PBBX | | | | | | |
| Witness Officer(s) | Shield N | o Tax No | Cmd Name | | | | | | |
| 1. SGT Laura Barbato | 270 | 944350 | 046 PCT | | | | | | |
| Officer(s) | Allegatio | on | | | Inve | stigat | tor Recor | nme | endation |
| A.LT Seth Lynch | Abuse: In Lt. Seth | n the vicnity of § 87(2)(b) Lynch stopped § 87(2)(b) | in the H | Bronx, | | | | | |
| B.LT Seth Lynch | Abuse: In Lt. Seth | n the vicinity of § 87(2)(b) Lynch issued a summon | s to § 87(2)(b) | Bronx, | | | | | |
| C.LT Seth Lynch | Force: In Lt. Seth | the vicinity of § 87(2)(b) Lynch struck § 87(2)(b) | with a radio. | Bronx, | | | | | |
| D.LT Seth Lynch | Bronx, L | esy: In the vicinity of st. Seth Lynch spoke rud | | n the | | | | | |
| E.LT Seth Lynch | Force: In Lt. Seth | the vicinity of \$ 87(2)(b) Lynch used physical for | in the E ce against § 87(2)(b) | Bronx, | | | | | |
| F.POM Nicholas Kourounis | | the vicinity of § 87(2)(b) olas Kourounis tightly h | in the H andcuffed ^{§ 87(2)(b)} | Bronx, | | | | | |
| G.LT Seth Lynch | | esy: In the vicinity of \$87 t. Seth Lynch acted rude | | n the dual. | | | | | |
| H.LT Seth Lynch | | nside the 46th Precinct sed the strip-search of § 87 | | h Lynch | | | | | |
| § 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g) | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| Officer(s) | Allegation | Investigator Recommendation |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| \$ 87(2)(g), \$ 87(4-b) | | |
| | | |

Case Summary

| On July 4, 2014, in front of \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, at approximately 10:15pm, \$87(2)(b) observed two officers, identified via investigation as Lt. Seth Lynch and PO Nicholas Kournanis, |
|--|
| arrive at the location. Shortly thereafter, fireworks were set off near the officers' vehicle. The officers |
| exited and approached a crowd that had formed. According to \$87(2)(6) Lt. Lynch approached a man, |
| identified via investigation as \$87(2)(b) and stopped him in regard to a nearby radio that was |
| playing music (Allegation A). Lt. Lynch then placed striction in handcuffs in order to take him to the stationhouse, where he was ultimately summonsed (Allegation B). Lt. Lynch placed striction in |
| the patrol car and allegedly threw the radio into the back of the car, hitting \$87(2)(b) on the arm |
| (Allegation C). |
| Although \$87(2)(b) did not know \$87(2)(b) she protested his arrest because she allegedly knew the |
| radio did not belong to him. Lt. Lynch allegedly told her to "Shut the fuck up" (Allegation D) and told |
| the crowd to clear the area. After the first directive, sar(2)(b) began to walk away, at which point Lt. Lynch told PO Kourounis to handcuff her. PO Kourounis placed a handcuff on sar(2)(b) sales that seems to be sare the same and sales that the crowd to clear the area. After the first directive, sar(2)(b) began to walk away, at which point Lt. |
| Lt. Lynch allegedly pushed her in the upper chest area with a closed fist, causing her to fall backwards |
| into a chair (Allegation E). While still in the chair, PO Kourounis grabbed \$87(2)(6) as left wrist and |
| further tightened the handcuff (Allegation F). Lt. Lynch began to assist PO Kourounis, and again Lt. |
| Lynch told her to "Shut the fuck up" (within Allegation D). Once both handcuffs were on, PO Kourounis |
| allegedly tightened them further (within Allegation F). 887(2)(6) alleged that she sustained injuries from |
| both the handcuffing and the physical force allegedly used against her by Lt. Lynch. After she was in |
| handcuffs, \$87(2)(b) allegedly witnessed Lt. Lynch kick over a grill belonging to a friend of possibly damaging it (Allegation G). \$87(2)(b) was then transported to the stationhouse. |
| |
| After arriving at the 46 th Precinct stationhouse, a cursory search of \$87(2)(6) was conducted per |
| procedure, and his keys and wallet were removed from his pockets. At this point, Lt. Lynch allegedly |
| instructed PO Kourounis to strip search § 87(2)(b) (Allegation H). PO Kourounis allegedly took § 7(2)(b) to the bathroom, and instructed him to remove all of his clothing. § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(c) CVR § 50-b |
| The strip search lasted approximately five to eight minutes, and there were no other |
| officers present. §87(2)(b) was released with a summons for unreasonable noise at approximately |
| 6am, around the same time \$87(2)(b) was released with a summons for refusal to disperse. |
| This case was originally assigned to Inv. Keyne Villert, and was reassigned to the undersigned |
| investigator on August 27, 2014. |
| Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories |
| • On March 16, 2015, a Notice of Claim inquiry was submitted to the New York City Office of the Comptroller, and the results will be added to the case file upon receipt (encl. 3V-3W). |
| • Due to \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(c) arrests, as well as \$87(2)(b) as injuries and \$87(2)(b) as |
| strip search, neither was offered mediation. |
| • § 87(2)(b) has no prior criminal convictions (encl. 5P). |
| § 87(2)(b) |
| |

Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- This is the first CCRB complaint filed by \$87(2)(b) (encl. 2D).
- §87(2)(b) did not file this complaint, and was unaware of it until he was contacted as a witness to §87(2)(b) as a sarrest. However, when contacted, he made CCRB allegations of his own. He does not have any prior CCRB complaints (encl. 2E).
- Lt. Lynch has been a member of the NYPD for 11 years, has had 28 previous CCRB allegations involving 10 cases with one substantiated allegation and one charge added by the NYPD, both in case #200900106. The substantiated allegation was for premises entered and searched; the Board recommended charges, and he received Command Discipline B. The NYPD also added an allegation of force, for which he received Command Discipline B. \$87(2)(9)

(encl.2A-2B).

• This is the first CCRB complaint against PO Kourounis during his two year tenure (encl. 2C).

Allegations Not Pleaded

- alleged that Lt. Lynch kicked over the radio that he believed to belong to \$87(2)(b) and as a result, it stopped playing music. However, \$87(2)(b) stated the radio was not on and did not belong to him, and there is no evidence that the radio was in fact damaged as a result. Therefore, a property damage allegation has not been pleaded.
- Although the investigation determined that the strip search was conducted by PO Kourounis, the allegation is being pled against Lt. Lynch, as he was listed as the authorizing supervisor in the Command Log, and §87(2)(b) claimed that it was done under his direction.

NYPD Documents

- The Command Log entry pertaining to \$87(2)(b) indicates that PO Kourounis was his arresting officer, and that a strip search was conducted and authorized by Lt. Lynch (encl. 5E).
- \$87(2)(b) was issued a summons by PO Kourounis for unreasonable noise, in which he states that he observed \$87(2)(b) operating a sound device for advertising purposes, and that it could be heard "from at least a block away".
- PO Kourounis also issued a summons to \$87(2)(b) for Disorderly Conduct Refusal to Disperse. He noted that he observed on a public sidewalk and that she stated, "Why should we move, we didn't do anything".

Other Evidence

• On July 16, 2014, \$37(2)(6) provided the CCRB with multiple, undated photographs of the injuries she allegedly received as a result of her arrest. She did not indicate when the photos were taken; however, in the photos, there is noticeable bruising on both her right and left upper arms, which appear to be in the shape of fingerprints. \$87(2)(6)

. At the time of her CCRB statement, her injuries were no longer visible.

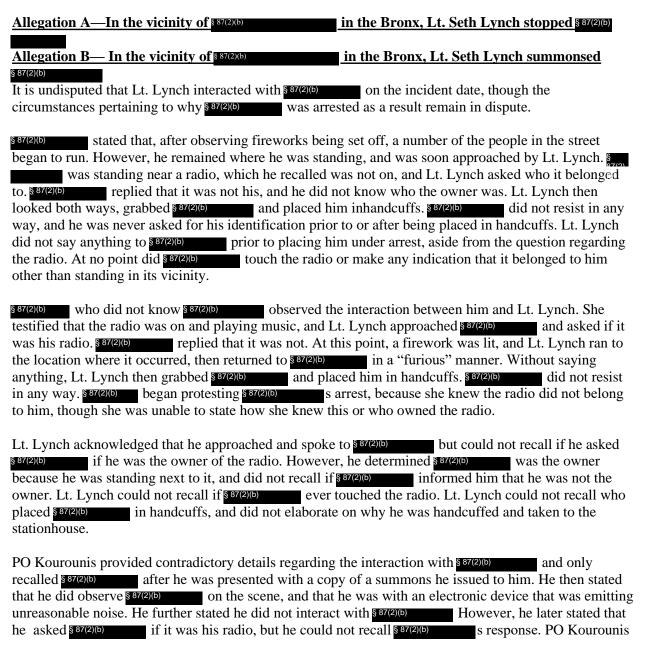
Finding and Recommendations

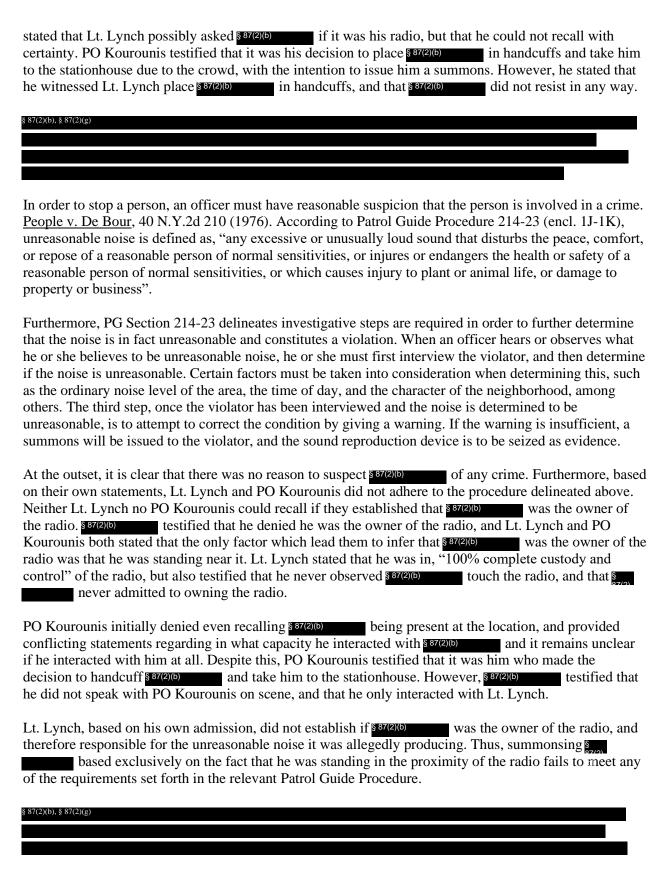
Explanation of Subject Officer Identification

Page 3 **CCRB Case # 201406773**

- provided descriptions of both officers, as well as provided the name "Lynch", which she obtained from his name plate. S87(2)(b) also provided a copy of the summons she was issued, as did S87(2)(b) Both summonses were issued by PO Kourounis, who, according to the roll call, was partnered with Lt. Lynch on July 4, 2014. Both officers acknowledged interacting with s87(2)(b) and s87(2)(b) during their CCRB interview, although there are numerous contradictions and discrepencies between their testimonies.
- However, based on civilian and officer testimonies, as well as the findings of the investigation, Allegations A, B, C, D, E, G, and H are being pled against Lt. Lynch, and Allegation F is being pled against PO Kourounis.

Recommendations





Page 5 CCRB Case # 201406773

| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
|--|
| |
| |
| Allegation C – In the vicinity of \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Lt. Seth Lynch struck \$87(2)(b) |
| with a radio. |
| It is undisputed that a radio was recovered from the scene, and that it was transported to the 46 th Precinct |
| stationhouse and vouchered as evidence. § 87(2)(b). § 87(2)(g) |
| ··· |
| In his statement, alleged that while he was sitting in the patrol car, Lt. Lynch threw the radio into the back of the car, striking him in the left arm. Lt. Lynch was evasive and unresponsive in describing the way he handled the radio, as indicated by the following exchange beginning at 22 minutes and 03 seconds into his CCRB interview: |
| CCRB Investigator: Did you take the radio and throw it in the back of the car, where the male individual was sitting? |
| Lt. Lynch: We removed it from the location. |
| CCRB Investigator: Ok, but did you throw it into the back of the car? |
| Lt. Lynch: Trunk? |
| CCRB Investigator: No, into the back of the car where the prisoner was Lt. Lynch: (interrupting) I put it in the back. I placed it in the back of the car. |
| CCRB Investigator: Ok, did it make contact with the male individual? |
| Lt. Lynch: I've never done that before. |
| CCRB Investigator: Never done what before? |
| Lt. Lynch: Hit somebody with anno. |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| Patrol Guide Procedure 203-11 states that officers must at all times use only the minimal amount of force |
| necessary to gain compliance (encl. 1B-1C). |
| |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| |
| |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| |

Page 6 CCRB Case # 201406773

| Allegation D – In the vicinity of \$87(2)(b) | in the Bronx, Lt. Seth Lynch spoke rudely to |
|--|--|
| § 87(2)(b) | |
| Shut the fuck up" twice, and to clear the area. §87(2)(b) Lynch say, "Cuff her". As she was being placed in hat to "Shut the fuck up". | complied, and as she walked away, she heard Lt. |
| PO Kourounis testified that he did not know if Lt. Ly not recall if he used profanity with \$87(2)(6) and wh reiterated that it was a hectic situation, but did not an | en asked if he was frustrated with \$87(2)(b) he |
| Investigator: When you were issuing instructions to like with her not complying? Lt. Lynch: It was a hectic situation. Investigator: Did you ever tell her to "shut the fuck Lt. Lynch: I don't recall specifically. | |
| Lt. Lynch did not deny directing profanity at \$87(2)(b) of the incident, he repeatedly emphasized that it was provided were that \$87(2)(b) was encouraging the crothe crowd did disperse as directed. | a hectic situation. However, the only details he |
| | |
| | |
| Patrol Guide Procedure 203-09 indicates that officers with civilians (encl. 1L). | s must be courteous and respectful when interacting |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| <u> </u> | |
| Allegation E— In the vicinity of § 87(2)(b) force against § 87(2)(b) | in the Bronx, Lt. Seth Lynch used physical |
| y v | er in her upper chest with a closed fist after she d seeing Lt. Lynch ever touch [887(2)(5)] |
| Lt. Lynch ultimately denied that he pushed \$87(2)(b) had gotten frustrated with \$87(2)(b) during the incided He also claimed that \$87(2)(b) was loud, belligerent, during the incident. | |
| Photos taken less than two weeks after the incident p on her upper arms, a small laceration on her index fir | |

Page 7 CCRB Case # 201406773

| s statement, along with the photos and the repeated evasions contained in Lt. Lynch's statement, indicate by a preponderance of the evidence that Lt. Lynch used his fist to forcefully push during the incident. |
|--|
| Patrol Guide Section 203-11 states that officers are required to use the minimum force necessary during a police incident. |
| Here, neither Lt. Lynch nor PO Kourounis gave any indication at all that force of any kind was needed to gain control of \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(g) |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| Allegation F— In the vicinity of \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, PO Nicholas Kourounis tightly handcuffed \$87(2)(b) |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| • |
| In his testimony, PO Kourounis stated that he did not purposefully tighten her handcuffs while placing her under arrest. PO Kourounis did escort \$87(2)(0) to the patrol car and placed her inside, but he did not tighten her handcuffs while walking her to the car. Lt. Lynch could not recall if he or PO Kourounis placed \$87(2)(0) in handcuffs, and he did not recall \$87(2)(0) complaining that her handcuffs were too tight. He also did not recall telling \$87(2)(0) complaining that her handcuffs were too tight. He also did not recall telling \$87(2)(0) complaining that her handcuffs were too tight. He also did not recall telling \$87(2)(0) complaining that her handcuffs were too tight. He also did not recall telling \$88(2)(0) complaining that her handcuffs were too tight. |
| testified that after Lt. Lynch instructed PO Kourounis to handcuff her, he grabbed her left arm and handcuffed her left wrist. When she was pushed into the chair by Lt. Lynch, PO Kourounis still had a hold of her left wrist, and tightened the handcuff to keep her still. As PO Kourounis walked her to the patrol car, he purposefully tightened her handcuffs a second time, causing her movement to be further restricted. While inside the patrol car, she asked Lt. Lynch to loosen her handcuffs, and he responded, "Shut up, you should have walked when I told you", and did not honor her request. |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| |
| · |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| |

Page 8 CCRB Case # 201406773

Allegation G – In the vicinity of \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, Lt. Seth Lynch acted rudely towards an individual. stated that at an unknown point during the incident, she witnessed Lt. Lynch kick over a grill belonging to an unidentified friend of \$87(2)(b) s aunt. \$87(2)(b) did not know if the grill was damaged due to being kicked, and did not provide the name or contact information for the grill's owner. PO Kourounis testified that he did know if individuals were barbequing on the incident date, and he did not witness Lt. Lynch kick over any grills. In his statement, Lt. Lynch could not recall if he kicked over any grills that day, but did note that it was a "hectic situation". Allegation H – Inside the 46th Precinct stationhouse, Lt. Seth Lynch authorized a strip search of It is undisputed that \$87(2)(b) was taken to the 46th Precinct stationhouse after being arrested by PO Kourounis and Lt. Lynch. § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) According to § 87(2)(b) he was brought into the stationhouse and remained near the desk, where his pockets were searched. His keys and wallet were removed from his jeans pockets, and these were the only items in his possession. After the cursory search was completed, Lt. Lynch instructed PO Kourounis to strip search § 87(2)(b) Prior to this, §87(2)(b) did not reach inside his pockets or put his hands in his clothing. § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(a) CVR § 50-b . The strip search lasted approximately five-eight minutes, and no other officers were present aside from PO Kourounis. Nothing was recovered from the search, and after it was completed, \$87(2)(6) was placed into a cell. Lt. Lynch categorically and repeatedly denied that he authorized the strip search of \$87(2)(6) as denied that he instructed PO Kourounis to conduct the strip search. The Command Log entry was presented to Lt. Lynch, and §87(2)(b) s allegation was explained to him. Lt. Lynch's defense was that the entry was not in his handwriting, and when asked to explain how his name could appear as the authorizing supervisor if he was in fact not the authorizing supervisor, he instructed the investigator to contact the officer who made the entry. PO Kourounis also denied that \$87(2)(6) was strip searched, denied that he conducted the strip search, and denied that he did so under the authorization of Lt. Lynch. Initially, PO Kourounis had no recollection of §87(2)(b) spresence in the stationhouse; however, he ultimately stated that he did observe \$87(2)(b) in the stationhouse, that he was the one who obtained his pedigree information. Sgt. Barbato did not have an independent recollection of the incident. She was presented a copy of the Command Log entry pertaining to \$87(2)(b) and she confirmed that she wrote the entry. Sgt. Barbato

Page 9 CCRB Case # 201406773

taken to be strip searched. She did not independently recall a strip search being conducted on that date; however, she stated that she would not have made the entry had the strip search not occurred. At no point

did not recall hearing Lt. Lynch authorize the strip search of \$87(2)(b) nor see \$87(2)(b)

did Sgt. Barbato discuss a strip search with either Lt. Lynch of PO Kourounis.

| Esteron and Log entry pertaining to \$37(2)(5) In this strip search unmistakably lists him as the authorizing supervisor and according to his own testimony, the desk sergeant would not have the authority to name him as the authorizing supervisor unless he in fact authorized the strip search. Furthermore, Sgt. Barbarto, who was assigned to the desk at the time, reiterated that she would have only made the entry had a strip search occurred. Patrol Guide Procedure 208-05 (encl.1D-1F), a strip search may only be conducted with the knowledge and approval of the arrest officer's immediate supervisor, and cannot be conducted regularly in association with an arrest. The Patrol Guide also stipulates that a strip search "will not be conducted after a decision is made to void an arrest or to release the prisoner immediately upon issuance of a summons". Ultimately, the supervising officer is accountable for ensuring the search is conducted appropriately. |
|---|
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| \$ 87(2)(b), \$ 87(2)(g) |
| |
| § 87(2)(b), § 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g) |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

Page 10 CCRB Case # 201406773

| Team: | | |
|-----------------|-------|------|
| Investigator: | | |
| Signature | Print | Date |
| Supervisor: | | |
| Title/Signature | Print | Date |
| Reviewer: | | |
| Title/Signature | Print | Date |
| Reviewer: | | |
| Title/Signature | Print | Date |